

Working to provide additional educational opportunities for Illinois veterans, Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) sponsored and successfully added an amendment to the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act that would give preference to veterans applying to the Cyber Scholarship for Service program.

"Our veterans work so hard for our country, we owe it to them to provide opportunities to excel in their civilian lives," said Halvorson. "This amendment means more men and women in uniform getting access to a better education and better jobs when they transition to the civilian workforce. Expanding educational opportunities for our veterans is an important step in bringing down the veteran unemployment rate, and something we absolutely need to be doing to thank them for their service."

Halvorson's amendment to the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act, H.R.4061, would provide additional opportunities for veterans to participate in the Cyber Scholarship for Service program, which was authorized by the bill. The Cyber Scholarship for Service program provides financial assistance to individuals seeking educational opportunities in the field of cyber security. The scholarship is part of a larger effort in H.R.4061 to establish a comprehensive cybersecurity policy that makes our country and businesses safer from online attacks.

Bob Filner (D-CA), Chair of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs said, "Congresswoman Halvorson is one of the bright new leaders on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and I want to thank her for her tireless work on behalf of America's veterans. Debbie Halvorson's amendment to H.R. 4061 will provide veterans' the chance to participate in an innovative scholarship program in the field of cybersecurity, which often builds on prior military training and offers much-needed employment opportunities. Her unwavering support of education programs and readjustment services honors our veterans and provides new opportunities for our returning troops."

As the only member from Illinois on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Congresswoman Halvorson is committed to expanding opportunities for veterans and lowering veteran homelessness and joblessness rates. In only her first year in office, Halvorson has authored legislation to directly assist veterans looking for work, including HR 2396, the Small Business Supporting our Troops Act, and HR 3908, the Families of Disabled Veterans Work Opportunity Act of 2009.

Halvorson's amendment passed by a margin of 424-0, and H.R.4061 passed by a margin of 422-5. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

